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CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

INK OCHi

31

VOL-1 ISSUE - 31
NOV 12-18, 2021

FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

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If only the stones could speak...

LEPTIS MAGNA

- KULDHARA: Abandoned and Haunted Village
- Amazing to Know
- Book Review
- Roshan's Cucina
- Tarot Reading

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE
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Editor's Note

PRESERVING HERITAGE

In this week's readings, I would like to highlight the problems associated with preserving heritage. Technology might be a problem when retaining heritage at the National/State Archives. Both the Archives were meant to store records indefinitely. However, they are overflowing with information. The paper records became too large and converted to online records. The problem with these records is that the technology became obsolete quickly.

By the time you convert the records to a new technology, an even newer technology is already available. At the rate that our society is producing new technology, this is a very real problem. Moreover, it is an extremely meticulous process converting records. It is easy to overlook records or enter them improperly, and this can result in a large loss of heritage.

Also, it might become difficult for people to access old records on obsolete technology. This could result in an even larger loss of heritage. While electronic records can preserve heritage, we don't know how much heritage we are losing in the process.

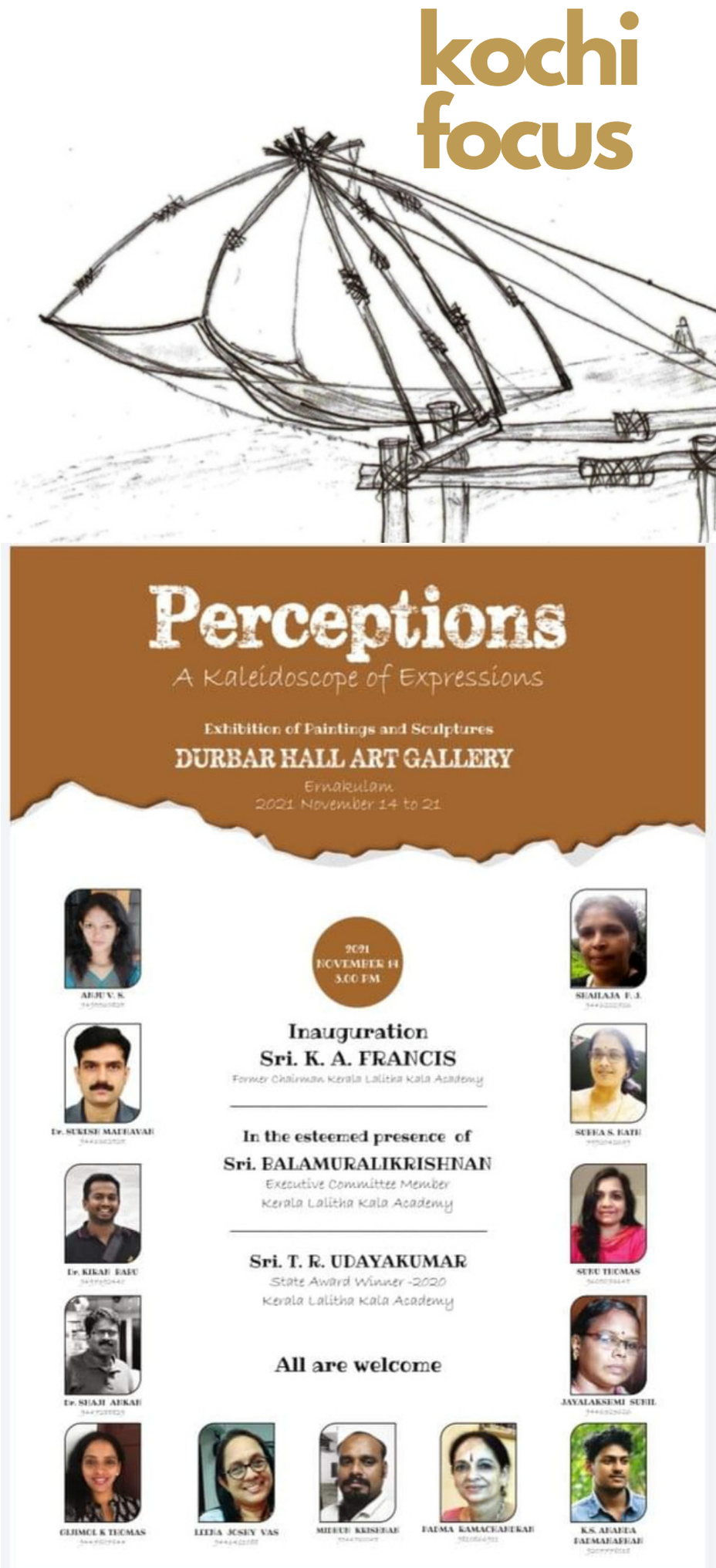
Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

PERCEPTIONS

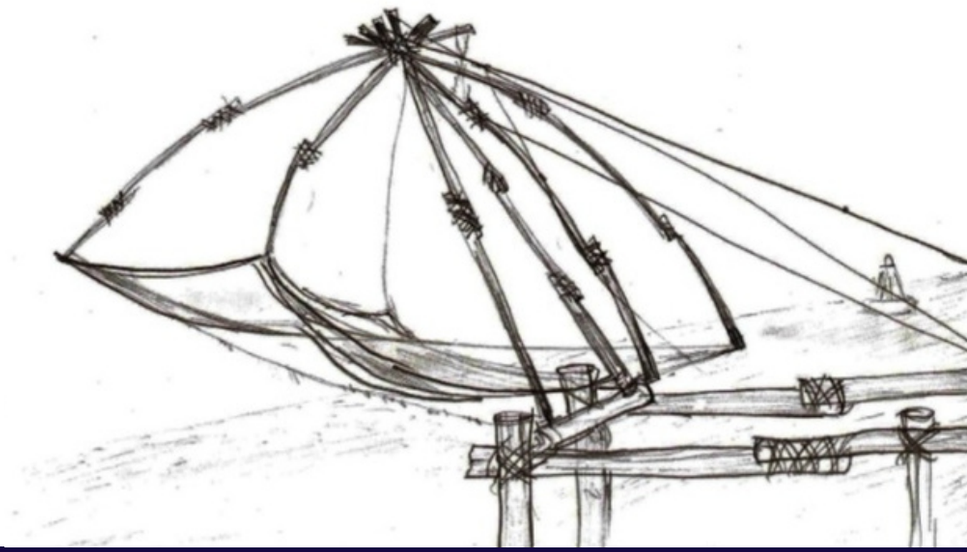
A Kaleidoscope of Expressions

The art of perceiving life in its exhilarating variety, and giving expression to thoughts through deft strokes and hues, empowers the society, undeniably, with its veracity. With sculptures and bold strokes on canvas, thirteen artists, each remarkably individualistic, join hands at Durbar Hall Art Gallery celebrating their power of self expression. Through their works as unique and diverse as the splendid, hitherto-unseen patterns of a kaleidoscope, they unravel the world of their thoughts to us. Surviving the gloom of the times with their powerful artistic vision, these artists emphasise the notion that there still are rays of hope that cut through the grim realities, nostalgic memories to cherish, and new horizons to long for,in the journey ahead. Tiding over the unprecedented scenario of the pandemic, they proclaim that resilience makes existence worthwhile. Their works are sure to enliven the spectators with the warmth and vigour oflife transcending the bleakness of existence in the COVID era.

Dr. Manju Viswabharathi
Assistant Professor, NSS Hindu College, Changanacherry, Kerala



kochi focus



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amazing to know

Source: History Live

A delicately exquisite diadem from the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (circa 4,000 years ago), once worn by Princess Khnemet. It was found in the tomb she shared with her sister Ita, next to the white pyramid of Amenemhat II who was probably their father.

The pyramid is now nothing more than a pile of rubble, having been heavily quarried for stone, but the sisters were buried in an underground gallery which was never looted until it was discovered by a French Archeologist in 1894. As such, it still contained their amazing jewelry, including this outstanding crown made of interlaced gold wires entangling nearly 200 small flowers, each with a carnelian eye and five turquoise-inlaid petals, the whole tied to six crosses made of lotus blossoms.

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amazing to know

Contribution: Antalya, Kas -Turkey

PATARA, DELIKKEMER

This canal water reaches Patara by crossing the hill without any equipment. Since the hill from which the water flows is high, they made a slope and accelerated the water from the lower hill, allowing it to be overcome to the higher hill. The place in the image is the place where the water is accelerated. It's great engineering. The fact that the water flows properly with its own attraction cannot be due to coincidence.

The reverse siphon system water canal made by drilling thousands of stone blocks for 22.5 km. The main source that meets the water requirement of the ancient city is located within the borders of today's Bodamya/Islamlar Village. The spring waters here were conveyed to Patara by a 22.5-kilometer waterway consisting of arches, terracotta water pipes, masonry or open channels. Who knows how many human labor, hearts and souls are involved in the processing and settlement of huge stone blocks.

Rumi Darwaza in Lucknow!

Source: India Cultural Hub

Rumi Darwaza in the heart of Lucknow looms over the busy everyday traffic of Lajpatnagar like an old guardian angel that has seen the city rise and fall.

The ancient Awadhi architecture of Rumi Darwaza is one of those features of the old city of Lucknow which still clings on to the nostalgias of the past, like the horse driven Tonga cart. .

The creation of Rumi Darwaza has a very charitable reason behind it. When famine struck North India during 1748, the then Nawab of Lucknow came up with a plan that will feed his countrymen as well as give him something to cherish and be proud of.

As per the plan, the Awadhi workers built the great Rumi Darwaza for him in exchange for every day's meal. Interesting!

amazing to know

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PRESENTS
ആൽവരമ്പത്തെ
അനുരാഗകളരി
Romantic Song...
ALVARAMBATHE ANURAGAKALARI
Producer: Bethania Resorts -Athirapilly
Lyrics: Besto Devassykutty - Mookkannoor
Music: Noby Paul | Vocals: Noby Paul & Sruthy Sivadas
BGM, Mix & Mastering: Edwin Johnson
On Screen: Amal Nath K (Alumni of Kalakshetra) & Sreelakshmi K G
Studios: K7 Studio Kochi & Peaks n Lows pro audios - New Jersey
DOP: Bibin Baby Thelappilly | Design: Subin Kumar S S
Noby Paul
Sruthy Sivadas
Besto Devasssykutty

PRESENTS
മഴവില്ലു വിരിയുമ്പോൾ...
Mazhavillu Viriyumbol
Lyrics : NAIBY SONISH | Music: NOBY PAUL
Vocal: GAYATHRY RAJIV (Mazhavil Manorama Super 4 Contestant)
BGM: AJAYAN K. S. | Studio: GEETHAM MEDIA STUDIO, KOCHI
Recorded, Mix & Mastered: JINTO JOHN
Cam & Cuts: AJAYAN K. S. (Sindhubhairavi Kochi)
Design: SUBIN KUMAR
Noby Paul
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By Reshma Narasing
A free-spirited girl who loves history

Kuldhara Village – A Place Haunted By Its Abominable Past

After a spellbound night under the stars in the Thar Desert, it was time to wrap up camp. Talking about all the fun about last night and discussing our levels of endurance for cold weather, we were headed to Kuldhara village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

The wheels of the jeep creaked as they landed on the highway as if desperately wanting to embrace a well-laid road after haggling between thorn-filled road in the Thar desert.

Our guide cum driver Dev gave something more interesting to chat by asking a question, ‘Do you believe in Ghosts?’

Now, who doesn’t love debating upon spirits or the evil souls?

kuldhara village

After each gave their varied opinion, he asked us to get ready to ‘meet’ the ghosts in Kuldhara village.

I was more excited that I was finally visiting this much-anticipated village. I knew the story and was thus very curious to visit Kuldhara village.

Kuldhara Village – A Repugnant Past

What actually beckons the travelers to Kuldhara Village?

A gory past and ruins that emanate an eerie feeling. About 200 years ago, Kuldhara village was a prosperous and a peaceful village that was inhabited mostly by Paliwal Brahmins, a respectable sect in the regions of Rajasthan.

All was well until the local ruler’s eyes fell on the daughter of Kuldhara village’s chief. He asked chief for her daughter’s hand in marriage. He also posed a threat of destroying the entire village if he refused to abide. With a deadline until being a sunrise away and the cruel virtues of the ruler well known, the villagers were in a loss.

kuldhara village

What happened next is an unsolved mystery until now. It is said that the entire population including the livestock abandoned Kuldhara village and perished without a trace overnight.

The ruler was baffled to see the barren village, and neither could he find a single soul, nor anyone until now are aware of the aftermath of this incident that occurred more than 200 years ago. The villagers left their beloved homes not without inflicting strong curses.

Till this day, most locals believe that the spirits of the villagers' still resides in the ruins. So the village has no inhabitants as people also believe that bad omen may fall upon them. This is how Kuldhara village earned the infamous tag of a haunted place.

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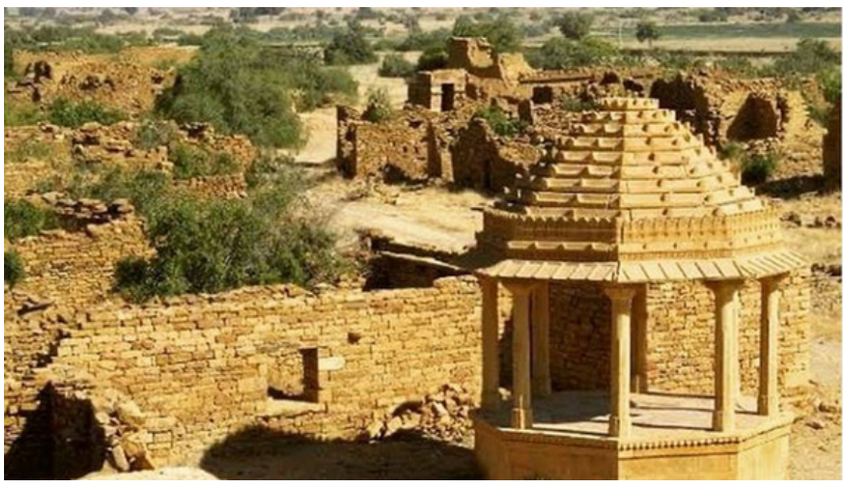
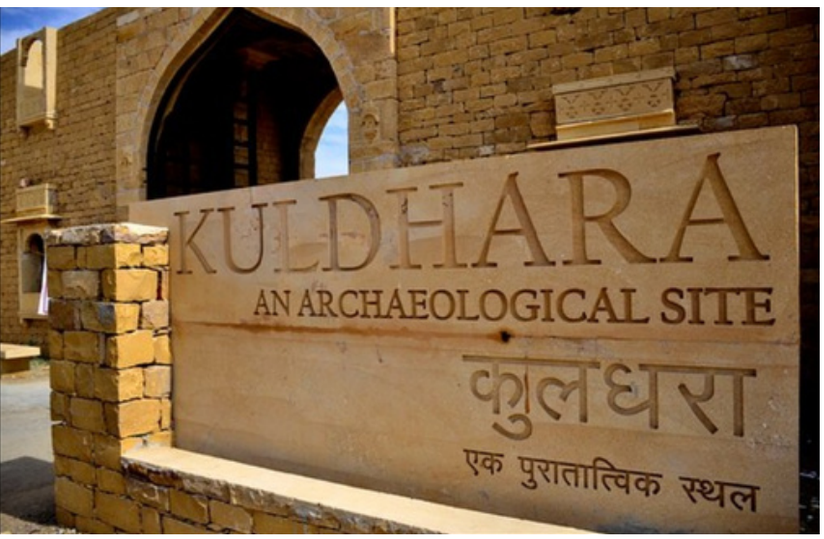
kuldhara village





Kuldhara Village – A Walk Through The Ruins

By the time Dev was done telling this story to the enchanted group, we had made it to the entrance of Kuldhara village. It's an official tourist attraction today, and a big sign board welcomes you to the 'haunted' village.

The hot sun looked more threatening than the village itself as I got down to walk. I glanced at the road that was ahead of me, which was flanked by debris and a few signs of vegetation.

My mind raced back in time to vividly imagine how the town might have looked. My rational side contemplated about the practical things that might have happened that night, while the emotional me was saddened by the destructive look of the town. I never felt any 'ghostly' things, of course.

kuldhara village

To me, Kuldhara Village looked like a place weighed down by that tragic night. Ghost rather seemed like a metaphor that described village's gory past.

The walls and the rubbles evoked a feeling of melancholy. As I walked through the buildings with no roofs, I imagined how hard it must have been for the people to abandon a place that they called home for years.

I slightly shuddered as I imagined the wails of women and children and the burning anger of men echoing across these buildings. The curses seemed befitting to me.

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Kuldhara Village – The Future Awaits

A bright smile of a man with a heavy moustache wearing a colourful turban brought me to the present. I greeted him with a smile and asked what he was doing at this forsaken place, also noticing at that instant a few people working on something just beside him.

kuldhara village

We are rebuilding Kuldhara village,' he said with the same smile plus a sense of pride. I was very happy to hear this! This meant an end to this painful sight of the ruins forever. I was also very surprised.

'Really?', 'What about the ghosts?', 'What about the bad luck?', 'Are people ready to move in?', I inquired, shooting all these questions at once.

'Yes, people are ready to move in. The government is going to provide all the support to the people who decide to live in Kuldhara village. The project will be ready in 3 years and Kuldhara village is going to be one of the best towns like everywhere else in Rajasthan,' he said, beaming with that same expression of pride and joy.

'This is a very good news to hear!', I exclaimed, wondering how he managed to maintain his sanity, all that warmth and a contagious smile when the annoying scorching heat was making me sweat profusely.

After clicking some pictures of the yellow rustic walls that glazed as the sun shone on them, I sat back with others in the jeep not feeling sad anymore.

We call the time bygone as ‘History’, which means a thing or an event of the past. So whether it’s a victory or a tragedy, it’s all in the past. Putting them to rest and moving on is what matters, as change is the only constant and an indispensable part of our future, right?

I can’t wait to go back and see Kuldhara village when it comes alive, surrounded by the majestic Thar desert in Jaisalmer. Until then, well, the past shall prevail!

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LEPTIS MAGNA

cover

If only the stones could speak...

Source: World History Encyclopedia

LEPTIS MAGNA WAS ONE OF THE JEWELS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE & THE NEIGHBOURING COASTLINE BECAME A FAVOURITE SPOT FOR ARISTOCRATS TO BUILD THEIR VILLAS.

Leptis Magna (aka Lepcis Magna), located in western Libya, North Africa, was a Phoenician city founded by Tyre in the 7th century BCE. Continuing to be a major city in the Roman period, it was the birthplace of Emperor Septimius Severus (r. 193-211 CE). Leptis Magna, thanks to its impressive ruins such as the Augustan Theatre, forum and Tetrapylon arch, is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

LEPTIS MAGNA

Phoenician Settlement

The coastal town of what the Romans would later call Leptis Magna was established in the second half of the 7th century BCE by a natural harbour at the mouth of the Wadi Lebda river by Phoenician colonists from Tyre. The pre-Roman history of Leptis, then perhaps called Lpqy, is patchy due to sparse archaeological evidence, but there was originally a four-sided open area which likely acted as a public forum, a 4th-century BCE necropolis (covered by the later Roman theatre), and temples dedicated to the town's two patron gods Shadrapa and Milk'ashtart. The town prospered largely thanks to the production and export of olive oil but was not without its rivals, notably the Greek colony of Cinyps a mere 18 km (11 miles) east along the coast.

LEPTIS MAGNA

The Roman Period

In the 2nd century BCE, the city gained favour by supporting Rome during the Third Punic War with Carthage (149-146 BCE). In the 1st century BCE, the city then chose the wrong side to back during Rome's civil war between Julius Caesar (l. 100-44 BCE) and Pompey the Great (l. 106-48 BCE). Caesar was victorious in 48 BCE, and he swiftly imposed an annual fee on the town of a massive three million pounds of olive oil for its error of judgement. The Romans did construct a dam and canals around the city to better manage the regular floodwaters of the Wadi Lebda river.

LEPTIS MAGNA

Most of the ruins at the site today date to the Roman period, and the majority date to the reign of Augustus (r. 27 BCE - 14 CE) or later. Nevertheless, they often display an interesting mix of Punic and Roman architectural styles. The large Augustan theatre has a collonaded stage and the market or macellum dates to the same period. We know that both of these structures were bankrolled by a local aristocrat, the splendidly named Annobal Tapapius Rufus.

The market was unusual with its two semi-circular market halls, and the stones which had the standard Roman measures of length and volume carved into them can still be seen today. Other notable Roman structures include the Chalcidium, a collonaded building of uncertain function (probably commercial) and a temple dedicated to the Augustan family and Rome. The latter boasted two fine statues of Augustus and his wife Livia, and these are now on display in the Archaeological Museum of Tripoli. Leptis Magna was made a Roman municipium in 64 CE.

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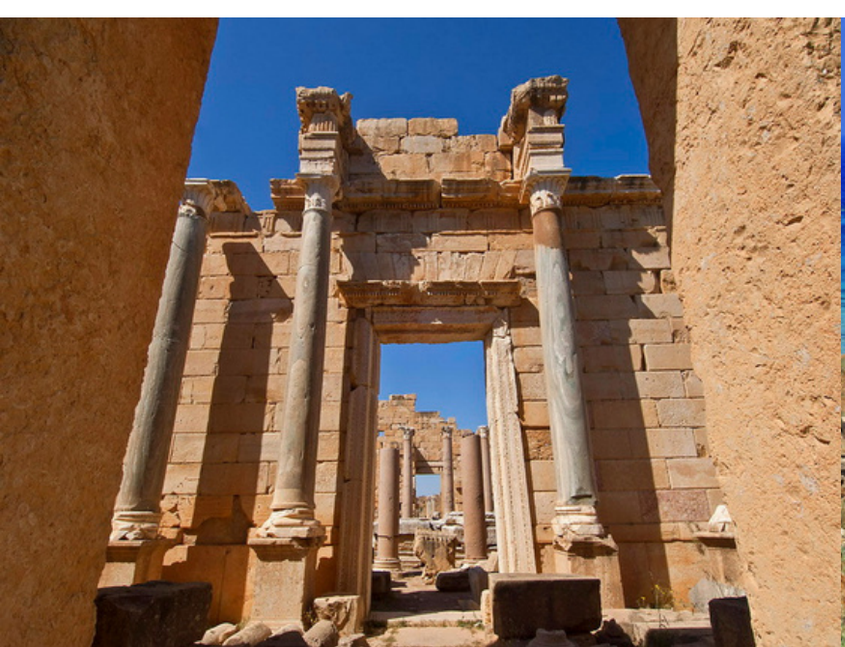
LEPTIS MAGNA

Around 110 CE, the city was granted the formal status of Roman colonia, which gave it voting rights back in Italy. In connection with this event, the Forum of Trajan and the Arch of Trajan were built. A new aqueduct was constructed during the reign of Hadrian (117-138 CE), again paid for by a local aristocrat, this time one Quintus Servilius Candidus. Another addition to the city's amenities was a Roman baths, built using marble and brick, which was set beside a huge palaestra space.

Already boasting an amphitheatre (56 CE), circus (whose starting gates have survived remarkably well) and many large villas (whose floor mosaics are another lasting testimony to the city's prosperity), Leptis Magna was fast becoming one of the jewels of the Roman Empire, and the neighbouring coastline became a favourite spot for aristocrats to build their villas.



LEPTIS MAGNA

The Septimius Severus Effect

In the late 2nd century CE the good times continued, indeed they got even better, and the city produced its most famous son, future Roman emperor Septimius Severus. Born into a local aristocratic family, Septimius would ensure his hometown did not lack for investment. Rather unashamedly, as the historian M. Wheeler puts it, "he lavished upon his birthplace a wealth of artistry in excess of its economic and political significance" (53).

Consequently, Leptis Magna became second only to Carthage as the most important city in Roman North Africa. A whole new wave of urban renewal began to honour the city's association with the most powerful man in the ancient world.

LEPTIS MAGNA

While local yellow limestone was the main source of building material, the imperial purse splashed out on much more expensive and rarer stone for decorative highlights and columns such as gleaming white Pentelic marble and green Carystian marble from Greece, grey-veined white Proconnesian marble from Turkey, and red Egyptian granite.

A new forum was built measuring 305 x 183 metres (1000 x 600 ft), and one of the finest basilicas in the Empire was constructed which had three aisles, two apses, and highly decorative sculpture of scenes showing the Severan family deities of Dionysos and Hercules. Reaching a height of around 30 metres (100 ft), the basilica was so ambitious, it took until the reign of Caracalla (211-217 CE) to complete.

LEPTIS MAGNA

Decline

Leptis, along with Sabratha and Oea, was part of the Roman province of Tripolitania (modern western Libya), and the city was made the province's capital by Emperor Diocletian (r. 284-305 CE). As the 4th century CE wore on, though, the city suffered increasingly from raids by North African tribesmen. The city had built fortifications as early as 69 CE to ward off raids by the Garamantes Berbers, but in 365 CE Leptis Magna was devastated by the Berber Austuriani. The region's fortunes improved somewhat in the 6th century CE when the Byzantine Empire took a greater interest in North Africa, but the city's economic importance was now much reduced and, as a consequence, so too was the size of Leptis Magna. The reduced urban area, now a mere 38 hectares or 95 acres, was protected by a defensive wall, the remains of which can still be seen today. Also in the 6th century CE, the basilica was converted into a Christian church. The ancient site was rediscovered and systematically excavated by Italian archaeologists from 1920 CE.

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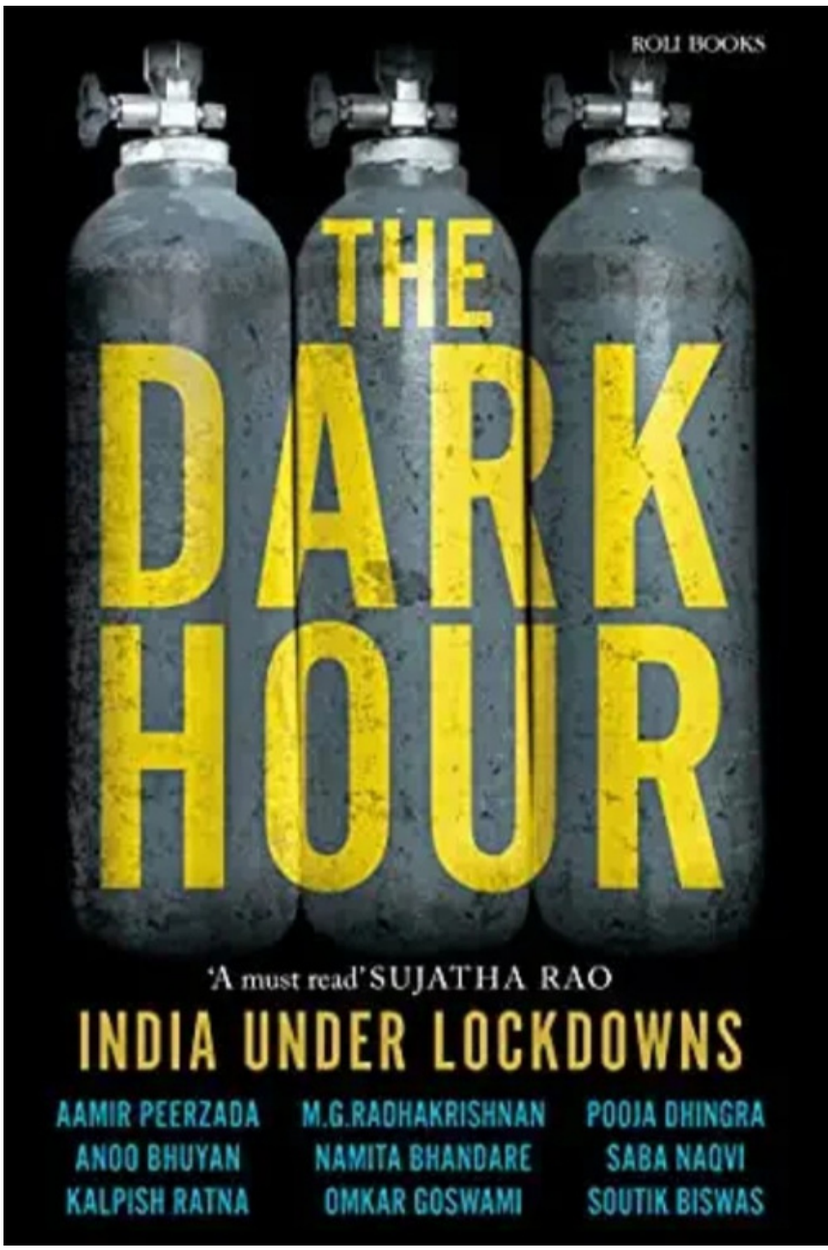
book review

Source: Roli Books



'This book has a remarkable set of essays that very powerfully capture the impact of the lockdown on the lives of ordinary people for whom even a small disruption of daily routine can entail profound consequences. A must read for those wanting to understand what happened in those awful summer months of 2020.' – SUJATHA RAO, Former Union Health Secretary, India and author of Do We Care? India's Healthcare System

At a mere four hours' notice, at 8.00 p.m., on March 24th 2020, the Indian Prime Minister Modi announced a lockdown to contain the spread of virus in order to jumpstart an already-crumbling healthcare system for one of the most devastating pandemics soon to envelop India. People stormed out to panic-buy ration stocks; India's migrant working classes started walking back to the villages, left hungry and desolate without homes, work and wages - a scene not very short of an apocalypse.

Roshan's CUCINA

Wattalappam - Srilankan Coconut Cream Custard

Daisy Roshan Rebera is a food enthusiast. Having grown up in the hill station Valparai, vegetables mean home grown ones and so she advocates for cooking with locally available ingredients with a healthy twist. She is currently teaching English in a college at Ernakulam, Kochi.

Wattalappam is a Sri Lankan dessert prepared using coconut milk & jaggery which is a regional take on the basic milk-egg custard. The sugar that gives sweetness to the traditional custard is replaced by jaggery / palm sugar that gives a nice concoction like flavor. Wattalappam is spiced with nutmeg instead of the usual vanilla.

I have been reading Wattalappam recipes from various sources for quite a number of years but the number of eggs made me dizzy. All the recipes I have come across for the pass 4 or 5 years have had 10 eggs. I came to know about Wattalappam from a television program in which also, the person adds 10 eggs.

I knew i had to find an alternative by adding some thickening agent. Then I decided to reduce the liquid content so that I would require only lesser number of eggs. Finally I reworked everything and came up with this recipe which has just two eggs.

Wattalappam - Srilankan Coconut Cream Custard

Roshan's CUCINA

You can serve 8 -10 people moderately or just 8 scrumptiously or just four generously…

I prepared one bowl full (in picture) plus 4 ramekin sized cups. Serve Wattalappam with fruits or nuts to make it more filling. We had it plain.

The old recipes I read had only nutmeg as a spice. Recently I saw the addition of more different types of spices like, cardamom, cinnamon or a combination. I guess nutmeg is traditional ingredient and so i have added only nutmeg. The custard is very good, wobbly, velvety and had a melt in the mouth consistency.

The Recipe

Eggs - 2
Jaggery - 200 gms
Cream - 100 ml
Hot milk - 100 ml
Coconut - half of a medium sized one
Nutmeg - 1/3 of a whole nut

I coated the bowl with jaggery so that it is easy to get it out once it is chilled and it is more sweet with that extra syrup.

Step: 1 - Extract the coconut milk - Grate the coconut or cut the coconut into chunks and put it in a mixer jar and run it for few seconds. Pour the hot milk. Grind the coconut till soft. Pour it through a sieve and extract coconut milk. Keep it aside. (do not add more water)

Roshan's CUCINA

Wattalappam - Srilankan Coconut Cream Custard

Step: 2 - Melt the jaggery with 1 tbsp water and strain it to get rid of any impurities.
Step: 3 - Pour the coconut milk into the melted jaggery and mix quickly. If it tends to form lumps, heat it in low flame till the jaggery melts.
Step: 4 - Lightly beat the eggs in a bowl.
Step: 5 - Pour a 2 tablespoons of the coconut-jaggery mix into the eggs to temper the eggs. Tempering means stabilizing the temperature otherwise the eggs will curdle. Once it is mixed pour the egg mix into the coconut-jaggery mix and stir well.
Step: 6 - Grate the nutmeg into the custard.
Step: 7 - Strain the whole mix.

Pour into a bowl coated with jaggery and steam it for 20 - 25 minutes. Make sure half of the bowl is immersed in water.

Let it cool at room temperature. Chill it in the refrigerator for an hour or more and serve. Steaming time differs with quantity.

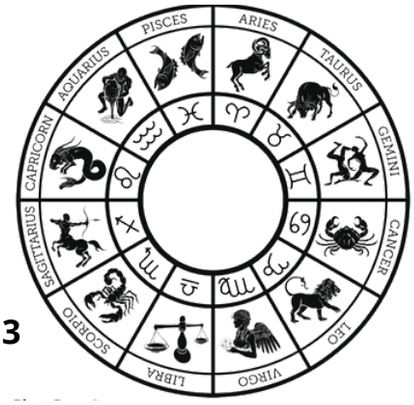
This pudding can also be baked by placing it in a water bath (by placing the Wattalappam bowl on another bowl half filled with hot water).

enjoy!

WEEKLY Tarot Reading

By: Chaitali Mukherjee

https://youtube.com/c/TarotPriestess1313



Your Next 7 Days

Nov 12-18, 2021

You will be powerful and successful. No more waiting and wanting, but getting it! Adhering to truth and values will be your motto. You will avoid conflicts and fake people. A surprise declaration of love by someone you think about.	**ARIES**	**LIBRA** To obtain excellent results put more enthusiasm in what you do. Little pleasure and consoling invitations will liven you up after a set back. A master stroke or change of course will bring you success. A surprise holiday and peaceful week.
Reconciliation, recovery and lasting unions. Ambitions will be realized as success is knocking at your door. Your rise, will be rapid and complete, because method, consistency and drive are aces up your sleeve.	**TAURUS**	**SCORPIO** Accept a change even if it confuses you. You have to let go of something that is no longer part of your life. There could be unpredictable health risks, arguments or loss of sentimental affair. Surrender to the flow of life with spiritual strength.
A trip with the person you love or family union. Dreams will be realized in terms of career. A new beginning, a new job, new role or new settlement is on the cards. A transfer or relocation can take place. Follow your intuition in all matters.	**GEMINI**	**SAGITTARIUS** Minor annoyances will not hamper your love life. Something that initially sounded like an absurd claim reveals itself as a sensible starting point. There could be a rival hidden in the garb of a friend. Be careful, use your wisdom in dealing with them.
Success is proportional to the speed of action. Relocation, transfer or a trip to make your ideas work. There is a possibility of promotion and success in career. Award, reward and recognition due to you will come through.	**CANCER**	**CAPRICORN** A solution is near to hand. It is useless being obsessed with an impossible mission, leave it. A thrilling change and trip will unite you with your friends and family. You will resolve all matters of finance, with expert help. Businesses will do well.
There could be broken promises, exasperation and misunderstandings. Judgement errors and prejudice stir up an already complicated situation. Extra income or success will not give you peace. For overall happiness start by admitting your own mistakes.	**LEO**	**AQUARIUS** Always be careful of other people's agenda. Someone tries to stab you in the back, they will fail. The time is right to deal with the house, refurbish, organize an estate purchase. A surprise, a victory, recovered credit and a valuable gift, will seek you.
Focal point this week is your heart, it is exhausted in a crisis. Work stress and unwanted relocation will add to your stress. You want peace and isolation. You will feel disappointed with fake and futile discussions. Success will be achieved despite high risk.	**VIRGO**	**PISCES** A long awaited solution and an end of real displeasure this week. You are nostalgic regarding someone you love. Your health crisis will end after a recent setback. A second easy job will satisfy you monetarily and intellectually.

To know more about your reading, please watch her YouTube channel - Link in the Homepage

OneWeek OneShot

By:
Aarzoo Khurana

A baby Langur younger than 24 hrs old

Shot at Ranthambore National Park

Portraying KERALA

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